

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
an image composition component that combines a
plurality of image signals to obtain a single composite
image signal; and

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an image compression coding component that
compresses and encodes the single composite image signal
so as to obtain a compression coded image signal.

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2. The image processing apparatus as claimed in
claim 1, further comprising an editing component that
supplies editing control signals to the image composition
component in order to edit the plurality of image signals.

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3. The image processing apparatus as claimed in
claim 2, wherein the image composition component
comprises:

a plurality of memory components for storing
each of the plurality of image signals;

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an image signal switching component for
selectively switching the image signals to be input into
the plurality of memory components;

a read control component that supplies a read

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control signal to the plurality of memory components so as to read out image signals stored therein; and

an image processing component for processing the image signals read out from the plurality of memory components using the editing control signal from the editing component.

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4. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the read control component supplies a read clock signal to the plurality of memory components using the editing control signal from the editing component, the read clock signal corresponding to a multiple of the plurality of image signals needed to obtain the composite image signal.

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5. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the image signal switching apparatus changes the image signals input into the memory components with each horizontal line of each image signal that forms the single composite image signal using the editing control signal from the editing component.

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6. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the image signal switching component

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adjusts a size of an image corresponding to the image signal supplied from the image signal switching component using the editing control signal from the editing component.

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7. An image recording apparatus comprising:
- 10 an image composition component that combines a plurality of image signals to obtain a single composite image signal;
- an image compression coding component that compresses and encodes the single composite image signal
- 15 to obtain a compression coded image signal;
- a plurality of cameras for obtaining the plurality of image signals; and
- an image recording component that records the compression coded image signal onto a recording medium.

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8. An image reproduction apparatus for
- 25 reproducing compression coded image signals recorded on a recording medium by an image recording component using a plurality of cameras for obtaining a plurality of image signals, the image reproduction apparatus comprising:
- a reproduction component for reading the
- 30 compression coded image signal from the recording medium;
- a decoding component for decoding the composite image signal from the compression coded image signal;
- an image selection component that selects the

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image signal from the composite image signal so as to obtain a selected image signal;

a selected image signal storage component that stores the selected image signal; and

- 5 an output component that outputs the selected image signal to a display component.

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